

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Burn Building Subcommittee

Thursday, January 9, 2014

A meeting of the Virginia Fire Services Board Burn Building Subcommittee was held at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Headquarters in Glen Allen, VA at 10:00 am. Mr. Robert Miner served as Chair.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Miner – Burn Building Subcommittee Chair - Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators

Charles Altizer – Virginia State Fire Marshal (Alternate)

Edwin Smith – Virginia Fire Chiefs Association

Dawn Brown – Insurance Industry Representative

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

William Kyger – Association of Counties

John Ainslie – Virginia Board of Housing & Community Development

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

NA

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Christine Lopilato

Donald Hansen

Russ Chandler

Billy Shelton

Joe Thompson

GUESTS PRESENT

Michael Matthews

Garrey Curry

Kenneth Sloneker

Michael Jefferson

Lindy Harper

Adam Thiel

Carson Holloway

Chris Shaver

Andy Nazak

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

- A. New Construction
 - i. Montgomery County
- B. Renovation Request
 - i. Gloucester County
 - ii. City of Alexandria
 - iii. Orange County

- iv. Danville
- v. Augusta County
- vi. Northumberland County

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

Robert Miner thanked everyone for their attendance and proceeded with the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

New Construction Grant Applications

Topic: New Construction Application by Montgomery County

Motion: Motion to deny the application until a complete application is submitted by the County, including a draft of a lease agreement for the land use.

Topic Discussion: The County was not present to offer discussion. The application is incomplete due to missing information. With the County not present, questions regarding the location of the building could not be addressed. Bob Miner noted that the proposed burn building is within 20 miles of another burn building which is less than the prescribed radius. The Director of Finance also noted that the County does not own the land on which the burn building would be located; therefore, a minimum 20-year lease governing land use is required for serious consideration of the application. The County has been notified to provide the missing information to complete its application and to provide a land use agreement for the location. The County may re-apply in the future when it has all required documentation to support consideration.

[Enclosure 1]

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: N/A

Renovation Grant Applications

Topic: Gloucester County Burn Building Renovation Grant Application

Motion: Motion to approve application for renovation costs up to \$20,072 which excludes \$5,000 in A/E costs (as A/E services are not necessary to upgrade the present roof system) with all work to be completed by June 30, 2014.

Topic Discussion: Application to renovate burn building to meet The Structures Group 5-year study report. The proposed work to be performed in the renovations does not require architectural/engineering (A/E) fees; therefore, the request for \$5,000 in A/E fees will not be considered.

[Enclosure 2]

Vote: unanimous

Motion Action: To present to the full board at the February 21, 2014 meeting.

Topic: Orange County Renovation Grant Request

Motion: Motion to approve the application for renovation costs up to \$44,026 which is prorated for square footage exceeding prototype specifications.

Topic Discussion: Application to renovate burn building to meet The Structures Group 5-year study report.

[Enclosure 3]

Vote: unanimous

Motion Action: To present to the full board at the February 21, 2014 meeting.

Topic: Danville Renovation Grant Request

Motion: Motion to approve the application for renovation costs up to \$35,761 which is prorated for square footage exceeding prototype specifications.

Topic Discussion: Application to renovate burn building to meet The Structures Group 5-year study report.

[Enclosure 4]

Vote: unanimous

Motion Action: To be presented to the full board at the February 21, 2014 meeting.

Topic: City of Alexandria Renovation Request

Motion: Motion to approve the application for renovation costs up to \$130,075 which is prorated for square footage exceeding prototype specifications. The award is conditional upon the City removing all combustible materials from the existing burn building.

Topic Discussion: Mike Matthews noted that \$40,000 in lighting costs are not part of the prototype specifications. Due to its location in a highly populated area, the City noted that burns must be performed at night as a Class A burn building, requiring proper lighting; the lighting costs is an upgrade rather than a renovation. Use of the building at night is limited due to the congestion of the area and objection to the impact on air quality as a result of the smoke from of Class A fuel burns.

Bob Miner noted that due to the limited use of the building as a Class A facility and the age of the building, the City may consider constructing a new Class B building that could be used at any time. Adam Thiel noted that Alexandria City Council has considered a Class B building, but considers Class B to be a long-range solution. Adam Thiel noted that the City is not currently in support of a Class B burn building.

The City will be demolishing the smoke stack that is attached to the burn building, which may cause damage to the existing burn damage upon demolition. Adam Thiel noted that due care will be taken to remove the tower while mitigating damage risk to the existing burn building. Costs to demolish the tower are not included in the grant application, but will be funded with local funds.

Regarding the combustible material in the existing building, Adam Thiel noted that the combustible material is not in or around the burn rooms. However historically, the VFSB has required jurisdictions to remove all combustible materials from burn buildings.

[Enclosure 5]

Vote: unanimous

Motion Action: To be presented to the full board at the February 21, 2014 meeting.

Topic: Augusta County Renovation Grant Request

Motion: Motion to approve the application for renovation costs up to \$69,812 which is prorated for square footage exceeding prototype specifications.

Topic Discussion: Application to renovate burn building to meet The Structures Group 5-year study report. The County hired an engineer to develop a remedial repair plan that deviated from the recommendations in The Structures Group (TSG) 5-year study report. Bob Miner noted that the VFSB defers to TSG 5-year study report, and the County would be expected to meet the recommendations in the 5-year report prepared by TSG.

[Enclosure 6]

Vote: unanimous

Motion Action: To be presented to the full board at the February 21, 2014 meeting.

Topic: Northumberland County Renovation Grant Request

Motion: Motion to accept the County's application for renovation as incomplete with no current action taken until the February 2014 VFSB meeting. If the County is able to provide additional supporting documentation and justification for the funds requested the VFSB may reconsider the County's application for funds in February 2014.

Topic Discussion: The County was not present to discuss its application.

[Enclosure 7]

Vote: unanimous

Motion Action: To be reconsidered at the full board at the February 21, 2014 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 1:08 pm

Clerk of the Committee

REVIEWED BY:



Christine Lopilato
Director of Finance

January 9, 2014
Date

Enclosures:

1. New Construction Application by Montgomery County - **Enclosure 1**
2. Gloucester County Renovation Request - **Enclosure 2**
3. Orange County Renovation Request - **Enclosure 3**
4. City of Danville Renovation Request - **Enclosure 4**
5. City of Alexandria Renovation Request - **Enclosure 5**
6. Augusta County Renovation Request - **Enclosure 6**
7. Northumberland County Renovation Request - **Enclosure 7**